

CORY GARDNER
COLORADO

SUITE SR-354
SENATE RUSSELL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5941

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS

September 26, 2017

The Honorable Rick Perry
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Perry:

We write to urge the Department of Energy (DOE) to work expeditiously with electric utilities across the U.S. to assist the local electric and power utilities and authorities in Puerto Rico to help restore electric services as quickly as possible in the wake of Hurricane Maria. We also urge DOE to leverage all existing resources at our national laboratories, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), to aid in these restorative efforts.

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and surrounding islands as a Category 4 storm. The electric grid in Puerto Rico sustained substantial damage and much of the island remains without power, endangering lives and delaying the recovery process.

Reports indicate that the hurricane destroyed the vast majority of transmission lines, power lines, and other critical aspects of Puerto Rico's electric grid. The executive director of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) has estimated restoration of power could take at least three or four months, leaving more than 3 million Americans without power on the island for that time.

A natural disaster in Puerto Rico should be treated no differently than a natural disaster anywhere else in the United States. We must mobilize all available federal resources to aid in recovery efforts and your Department will play a critical role as we work to bring stability to the island and relief for our fellow Americans.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator